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CONFIDENTIAL

7 October 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with the Staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy - William Beecker's Article on the SALT Talks

1. Today I met with Mr. Edward J. Bauser, Executive Director, and Mr. George Murphy, Deputy Director, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, to discuss Bauser's letter to the Director of 2 October. Bauser's letter enclosed a copy of William Beecker's article in the October 2, 1969 edition of the New York Times concerning the SALT talks (copies attached).

2. I told Bauser and Murphy that, in forwarding the letter to us for action, the Director indicated that the report discussed in the article was being prepared under the aegis of the National Security Council and therefore he would not be in a position to provide a copy. I added that the SALT talks, of course, were primarily a matter of concern to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and that they were undoubtedly the focal point for much of what was being discussed in Beecker's article. With respect to the other questions proposed by Bauser's letter, I indicated informally that the article was in fact quite accurate, and while it touched on many sensitive areas, it could not be said that it contained classified information as such. I suggested that under the circumstances we thought it desirable to handle our response orally rather than to respond in writing. Mr. Bauser raised a question as to why we could not merely pass his letter on to someone like Dr. Kissinger for reply. I indicated that this would not be appropriate under the circumstances and Bauser did not press the point further. Mr. Murphy expressed the opinion that a formal response would not serve any additional purpose since I had provided the information they desired and it was obvious that they would not get the report from Kissinger.

3. I assured Bauser that, as always, we stood ready to brief the Joint Committee on matters within our purview in which there was an atomic energy interest. He instructed Murphy to make a notation on their copy of

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the letter to the effect that this was not primarily a CIA responsibility. I had the distinct impression that they intended to send a similar letter to ACDA. When I returned to my office I received a call from Murphy informing me that they were doing just that.

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/s/

Deputy Legislative Counsel

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